

**ADULTERATION OF BUTTER.****WHAT OLEOMARGARINE IS MADE OF.**

SOME OF ITS INJURIOUS INGREDIENTS—EFFECTS ON PEOPLE WHO USE IT, AND ON LEGITIMATE TRADE.

The Senate Committee on Public Health yesterday resumed its investigation into the alleged illegal manufacture and sale of imitation and adulterated dairy products and their effect. Senators Low and Nelson and Mr. Thornton, counsel for the committee, were in attendance. Several oleomargarine manufacturers and dealers were present; they were represented by T. M. Seaver as counsel.

The effect of oleomargarine on the human stomach and the extent to which milk is adulterated were the subjects discussed.

Resolutions adopted by the New-York Retail Grocers' Union on March 3, and addressed to the Senate Committee on Public Health, were read. They urged that a proper law should be passed by the Legislature, with stringent penalties, prohibiting the sale of any kind of imitation butter as butter, and that no wholesale or retail dealer, under heavy fine and penalties, be allowed to sell any imitation of butter without stating what the article is.

Charles Moses, of No. 41 First-ave., the first witness, was formerly employed in the oleomargarine factory of Nathan & Co., in Grove-st. He said:

I was a packer and packed the stuff in tubs. Sometimes I made it in rolls of one pound each, and some were made in my tubs, and my feet were made by the liquid which ran over my boots and had eaten through them. I had to go to Bellevue Hospital and the doctor told me I must not eat any more oleomargarine. My teeth were made loose and are now loose; many of them came out. My hair came off. For seven days while in the hospital I lost blood.

JAMES GARDNER, of No. 229 West Eighteenth-st., testified: I know Mr. Nathan & Co. were engaged in an oleomargarine factory about eight months ago, and he stopped work for the reason that he was poisoned by the product. He died a few months after. He died from the poison he got in his system by handling oleomargarine.

**WHAT DEALERS IN BUTTER AND CHEESE SAY.**

Marcus Fosom, of No. 70 Warren-st., a commission cheese dealer for twenty-five years in this city, said:

The dealers have suffered greatly from the sale of imitation butter, and we are trying to get a very difficult and tedious business, as it is very difficult to get the public to understand this product, but insist on its being sold for what it is. As it is now sold, it is not branded in any way and is always sold for butter. The chief agricultural interest in this country is the dairy business, and if one is lost at least 75 per cent of the retail dealers in this city sell oleomargarine for butter. I am in favor of a prohibitory law if this business cannot be put out without a great loss to the trade.

Mr. Nathan & Co. sent a telegram to the State attorney general on Friday last, offering to stop work

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John Quinn, No. 162 Chambers-st., a produce commission dealer for thirty years, testified to the effect:

I would favor a prohibitory law for the protection of the dairy business. The dairy business could never be sold if offered for what it is. It greatly injures the farmers. I deal in it to only that extent. When I get an order for butter, I always ask the man who sent it if he does not keep it on hand.

Charles N. Beeson, a Washington Market butter dealer for twenty-seven years, said:

The sale of oleomargarine is killing the dairy business. It is always sold for butter. I never knew it to be sold for what it is. It is never branded as imitation butter, so far as I know. I had a friend who tried to get it marked "oleomargarine" on his counter for thirty days and was not able to sell a pound of it. This product could not be sold for what it is. It sold commonly it will make every dairyman's mouth water. It is a great temptation to a swindler. I have known oleomargarine sold for 37 cents a pound when it cost only 12 or 14 cents.

**NUTRIC ACID AND OTHER INGREDIENTS.**

Dr. H. A. Paoler, of Goshen, Orange County, formerly a member of the Board of Health in this city and now a member of the Orange County Board of Health and vice-president of the Orange County Farmers Milk Association, testified in regard to the effects of nitric acid which is used in the manufacture of oleomargarine. He said:

The witness—*I suppose a re-examination was ordered. Mr. Kelly, president of the National Water Meter Company, was next examined. He said that his company began to sell water meters to the Department of Public Works in November, 1881. Last year he sold 1,081 meters to the department, and this year he has sold 1,000, mostly at a discount of ten per cent. Meters were suspended last, but not until January 1. From the department books produced it was shown that persons had been given notice several months ago that water meters in their buildings and that there was no need to show that the order had been complied with. The witness could find nothing on his twenty-three lists in regard to some of these notices and he could not give any explanation other than that there must be other lists. It was shown that when a meter is placed in a house by the department a check in red ink is placed over the name of the property-owner, and when the property-owner puts in his own meter the red ink check is left on. That is the only record kept on the part of the fact that a meter is put in by an individual and not by the department. It was shown that many cigar stores and places of "trade" were compelled to have their meters removed, and that was done without a great loss to them. In this case, when I came to see the Commissioner of the City of New York, he told me that the meter was not a good meter, and when I asked him if he could not have another, he said, "No, I can't do that."*

Mr. Fosom—*What do you mean?*

Mr. Paoler—*That means postpone until November.*

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